



# National Museum of Health and Medicine

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## Otis Historical Archives

### OHA 174.03 Glass Collection

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**Date of Records:** 1943-1945

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**Finding Aid:** Eric W. Boyle (2015)

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**Background Note:** In 1943, the newly discovered antibiotic penicillin was in extremely short supply. Except for a small amount of the drug allocated for medical research, the overwhelming majority of the limited amount of penicillin that was available at that time was allocated for military use, under the supervision of the Army. The Army had to ration the penicillin, and it set up criteria to be used to allocate the supplies of the antibiotic. Eight Army Medical Corps officers were given special training in the use and rationing of penicillin and were then assigned to supervise the distribution of penicillin in a specific region of the country. Dr. William I. Glass was one of these eight “penicillin officers.” Requests from individual military medical facilities for the use of penicillin for specific patients had to be approved by the region’s penicillin officer, who would review the case summary, interview and examine the patient if necessary, provide for the distribution of penicillin to the specific facility if approval was given, and follow-up on results. Dr. Glass who was a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in 1943, was designated as the penicillin officer for the southeast region of the U.S., based at Kennedy General Hospital in Memphis, TN. In 1944, Dr. Glass (then a Captain) was assigned as the Chief of General Surgery at the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Hospital in Blandford, England. At that time, the specialty of neurosurgery was in its infancy, with formal specialty training programs and board certifications having been established only a few years earlier. Consequently, many of the operations on wounded service members that would today be performed by neurosurgeons with specific training were in 1944 being performed by general surgeons. Whether by chance or by choice, Dr. Glass ended up performing a large number of operations to repair damaged or severed peripheral nerves.



**Series/Scope and Content Note:** This collection covers two main areas of the work done by Dr. Glass, as a penicillin officer and as a surgeon performing operations to repair damaged or severed peripheral nerves. The penicillin material includes handwritten and typed memos, communications, reports, and case summaries related to the penicillin program. There is also some medical literature from that era related to penicillin. Some documents were prepared by Dr. Glass, while other documents were prepared by others in the leadership of the penicillin program. These documents deal with the specifics of the policy and the implementation of the penicillin program, including the various problems encountered. The nerve repair case folders consist primarily of case summaries of the peripheral nerve surgeries that Dr. Glass performed in 1944-45. Some of these case summaries are typed and some are handwritten. These documents were collected by Dr. Glass while he was Chief of General Surgery at the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Hospital in Blandford, England from 1944 to 1945.

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## **BOX AND CONTENT LIST**

### **BOX 001:**

#### **SERIES 001: PENICILLIN, CORRESPONDENCE AND SUPPLY**

- 00001: Officers in the Penicillin Group
- 00002: Misc. Notes (July 1943)
- 00003: Air Mail Delivery (July 1943)
- 00004: Percy Jones General Hospital, Ferrer to Glass (July 1943)
- 00005: Walter Reed General Hospital, Hamilton to Glass (July 1943)
- 00006: Notes—Penicillin War Wounds (July 1943)
- 00007: War Dept. Circular Letter No. 125 (July 1943)
- 00008: Camp Blanding, Freeman to Glass (August 1943)
- 00009: Percy Jones General Hospital, Ferrer to Glass (August 1943)
- 00010: Receipt, Army Air Forces, Technical Training Command (August 1943)
- 00011: The Upjohn Company, Compliance with Pyrogen Test (Aug-Sept 1943)



00012: Kennedy General Hospital, Penicillin Report (August 1943)

00013: Penicillin Therapy, Grimes, Fort Benning (August 1943)

00014: Prentiss to Glass (August 1943)

00015: Halloran General Hospital, Lyons to Glass (August 1943)

00016: War Dept. Memo, Publicity and Supply (August 1943)

00017: Effects, Glass (n.d.)

00018: CE Jordan & Co., Dowdy to Blass (September 1943)

00019: Ashford General Hospital, Cooper to Glass (September 1943)

00020: Case History, Kennedy General Hospital (September 1943)

00021: Basic Training Center, Return of Penicillin (September 1943)

00022: Copy of Telegram, No Penicillin Available (September 1943)

00023: Treatment of Sulfonamide Resistant Gonorrhea with Penicillin (September 1943)

00024: Memo, Army Service Forces (September 1943)

00025: Treatment of Sulfonamide Resistant Gonorrhea with Penicillin (September 1943)

00026: Memo, Army Service Forces (November 1943)

00027: Lawson General Hospital, Evans to Glass (November 1943)

00028: Prentiss to Glass (November 1943)

00029: List of Bases (n.d.)

00030: Loan, White to Glass (Dec. 1943)

00031: Receipts of Penicillin Ampules (December 1943)

00032: Glass to White (December 1943)

00033: Ferrer to Glass (December 1943)

00034: Penicillin for Treatment of Fulminating Meningococcic Septicemia (December 1943)

00035: Nashville Army Air Center, Report on Use of Penicillin (December 1943)

00036: Type of Cases Desired for Penicillin Therapy (n.d.)

00037: Copy of Telegram, Use for Venereal Disease (December 1943)

00038: Kennedy General Hospital, Penicillin Report (December 1943)

00039: Nutritional Problems and Diet (n.d.)

00040: Penicillin Memorandum (n.d.)



- 00041: Kennedy General Hospital, Penicillin Report (1943)
- 00042: Lecture Outline (n.d.)
- 00043: Kennedy General Hospital Memo (n.d.)
- 00044: Background Note (n.d.)
- 00045: Loan, Gamble to Prather (1944)
- 00046: Army Air Forces Training Command, Clark to Glass (January 1944)
- 00047: Extract, Army Services Forces, Distribution (February 1944)

## **SERIES 002: PENICILLIN, CLINICAL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

- 00048: Reg. No. 2400, Bronchiectasis Lobectomy
- 00049: Reg. No. 5282, Nephritis, Erythema
- 00050: Reg. No. 5339, Renal Calculus, Hydronephrosis, Pyelotomy
- 00051: Reg. No. 5504, Abscess
- 00052: Reg. No. 6081, Calculus and Pyelonephritis
- 00053: Reg. No. 6170, Osteomyelitis, Nasopharyngitis
- 00054: Reg. No. 6531, Phlebitis, Septicemia, Abscesses
- 00055: Reg. No. 6580, Sinusitis, Abscess, Osteomyelitis
- 00056: Reg. No. 8386, Osteomyelitis
- 00057: Reg. No. 8667, Nasopharyngitis, Cellulitis, Thrombophlebitis, Septicemia
- 00058: Reg. No. 9008, Arthritis
- 00059: No. Reg. No., Septicemia, Palsy, Infected Wound
- 00060: Summary Charts
- 00061: "P Resistance"
- 00062: Blank Form and Chart

## **SERIES 003: PENICILLIN LITERATURE**

- 00063: Notecards with Handwritten Notes on Publications (1932-1943)



- 00064: Misc. Lists of Publications (1942-1943)
- 00065: "Activity of Penicillin in vitro" (1942)
- 00066: "Chemotherapeutic Activity of Penicillin" (1942)
- 00067: "Observations on the Mechanism of Action of Penicillin" (1942)
- 00068: "On Penicillin" (July 1942)
- 00069: "On Esters of Penicillin" (Feb 1943)
- 00070: "Use of Penicillin in Sulfonamide Resistant Gonorrheal Infections" (May 1943)
- 00071: "Penicillin Statement Released by Committee on Medical Research" (May 1943)
- 00072: "Here's Medical Magic" (May 1943)
- 00073: "Investigation of War Wounds, Penicillin, A Preliminary Report" (Oct. 1943)
- 00074: "Penicillin: New Bacteria-Killing Compound" (1943)
- 00075: Penicillin Therapy of Surgical Infections in the US Army" (1943)
- 00076: War Department Technical Bulletin, Penicillin (Feb 1944)
- 00077: "The Use of Penicillin in Treating War Wounds" (1944)

#### **SERIES 004: NERVE REPAIR CASES**

- 00078: Albee, Fibular Head Excision (1945)
- 00079: Brophey, Left Arm Pain (1945)
- 00080: Davidson, Shell Fragments to Abdomen and Upper Extremities (1945)
- 00081: Johnson, Bullet to Arm (1945)
- 00082: Johnstone, Bullet to Arm (1945)
- 00083: Kirby, Upper Ankle Wound (1945)
- 00084: Lasko, Machine Gun Bullet Wounds of Arm and Back (1944)
- 00085: Lorenzen, Shell Fragments to Thigh (1945)
- 00086: Luppi, Shell Wound to Thigh (1945)
- 00087: Mitchell, Shell Fragments Upper and Lower Extremities (1945)
- 00088: Molina, Shell Wound to Thigh (1945)
- 00089: Mulhern, Mine Fragments Both Lower Extremities (1945)



- 00090: Poole, Progress Notes (1944)
- 00091: Powell, Shell Fragment Wounds to Leg (1944)
- 00092: Prickett, Shell Fragments to Upper and Lower Extremities (1945)
- 00093: Sachs, Wound to Forearm (1945)
- 00094: Scarano, Pistol Bullet to Wrist (1944)
- 00095: Spires, Shell Fragments to Arm (1945)
- 00096: Theodore, Machine Gun Bullet Wound of Arms (1944)
- 00097: Thompson, Wound to Arm (1945)
- 00098: Thoms, Mine Fragments to Both Legs (1945)
- 00099: Van Why, Perforating Wound to Arm (n.d.)
- 00100: Vettel, Machine Gun Bullet Wound to Leg (1944)
- 00101: Wimbrow, Wound to Right Leg (1944)
- 00102: Blank Examination and Records Forms